MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1963

Telephone Number
Knighton 23

3, Wylcwm Street,
KNIGHTON, Radnor.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

My report for the year 1963 is as follows:-

Home Population - The estimated mid-year population of the Urban District of Knighton was 1810.

Schedule of Premises

Type	Number
Dwelling houses and flats (excluding those assessed with Shops)	575
Shops assessed with private dwelling accommodation	37
Other shops (including Banks in Shopping Areas) and Cafes	27
Offices (including Banks in Shopping Areas)	7
Public Houses (excluding Residential Hotels)	7
Hotels and Boarding Houses	1
Caravan Sites	1
Warehouses, Stores and Workshops	27
Garages (Commercial), Petrol Filling Stations, Car Parks	11
Lock-up Garages (separately assessed)	74
Markets	1
Factories, Mills and other premises of a similar character	7
Gas, Electricity, Water, Transport Undertakings	6
Cinemas	1
Sports and Recreation Grounds, Golf Courses	4
Social Clubs, Community Centres and Public Halls	5
Public Libraries	1
Schools	2
Crown Occupations	5
Hospitals	1
Old People's Hostels	1
Town Halls and Municipal Offices	2
Sewage Disposal Works	1
Refuse Disposal Works	1
Hereditaments not otherwise classified	17
Total	822

Vital Statistics

Live Births - Males 13, Females 15, Total 28, Rate 12 per 1,000 population as adjusted by comparability factor 1.11.

Illegitimate Live Births - 1 Female.

Stillbirths - 0.

Live and Stillbirths - 28.

Infant Deaths - Under 1 year 0, under 4 weeks of age 0, under 1 week of age 0.

Infant Mortality Rates - Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births 0.
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births 0.
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births 0.

Neo-natal Mortality Rate - 0 deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births.

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate - 0 deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births.

Perinatal Mortality Rate - 0 stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births.

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Maternal Mortality (including abortion) - 0 deaths. Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 0.

Deaths (excluding infant mortality) - Males 15, Females 16, Total 31. (excludes outward and includes inward transfers).

Death Rate - 13 per 1,000 population as adjusted comparability factor 0.75.

Causes of Death	Males	Females
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0	0
Cancer (all forms)	1	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	4
Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System	4	7
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	2	1
Others	2	1
	15	16

Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases - Tuberculosis (respiratory) 1 male, 0 females. Puerperal Pyrexia 1 female. Measles (excluding rubella) 18 males, 23 females. Dysentery 0 males, 1 female. Whooping Cough 1 male, 0 females. There were no cases of Scarlet fever, acute poliomylitis, diphtheria, meningococcal infection, acute pneumonia, smallpox, acute encephalitis, enteric or typhoid fever, paratyphoid fevers, erysipelas, food poisoning. ophthalmia neonatorum, anthrax. There were no cases of chicken pox and German measles.

The Public Health (Leprosy) Regulations, 1951 - No action needed.

Mental Health Services - Administered by the Radnorshire County Council.

Home Health Services and Old People's Welfare - The home health services are administered by the Radnorshire County Council.
Chiropody - A fortnightly service is given to persons over sixty years old.
There is a Knighton Old Peoples' Welfare Club.

Water Supply -
(a) The water supply of the area and of its several parts was satisfactory (i) in quality, and (ii) in quantity with the qualification that the heavy frosts in February and March necessitated the setting up of four standpipes in the street to provide water supplies for householders otherwise deprived of water, and flexible tubing and fittings were loaned in two cases where it was vital to maintain tempor ry supplies.Works to improve the quality of the Rhos water supply were effective. Improvements to the chlorination plant were made and the reservoirs were cleaned out and inspected.
(b) 10 bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and 1 of the water going into supply. The reports on the raw water from the Cwm Ifor supply showed that Bact. coli (type 1) were present and, therefore, the need for constant vigilance at the source and uninterruption of chlorination and this was done. The report on the water going into supply was satisfactory. Tests for residual chlorine were made two or three times weekly, i.e. each time the chlorine apparatus was inspected and replenished. Bacteriological examinations of two private sources were made, and at one of these the installation of a filter proved effective. No chemical analyses, other than for fluoride content, were made. All four main sources, namely, Pump House Spring, Jacketts Spring, Woodhouse Spring and Cwm Ifor Spring contained less than 0.1 parts per million of Fluorine.
(c) The water has no plumbo-solvent action.
(d) In order to improve the quality of the Rhos supply to several isolated dwellings the polluted water was diverted from the source by means of glazed ware spigot and socket pipes, the stone collecting drain was taken up and replaced by glazed ware spigot and socket pipes and the collecting chambers were built up.

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Dwelling Houses and Flats	Number	Population
in the district	612	1810
supplied from public water mains direct	586	1757
supplied from public water mains through standpipe	0	0
supplied privately (agricultural dwellings)	26	78

Sewerage - In February the formation of ice in the settling tanks at the town's sewage purification works caused certain difficulties, but these were overcome. The scheme for enlarging and improving the sewage purification works was submitted to the Welsh Office, intention to carry out the works having been duly advertised and planning permission obtained. The scheme provides for increased settlement, increased filter area with alternating double filtration, and more efficient and larger humus tanks, and will provide an effluent of satisfactory standard even when pollution was at its highest, i.e. when sewage from the Market was being treated.

The public sewer in Penybont Road was extended to serve new bungalow sites. An extension of the public sewer to serve Farrington Lane development was begun.

Livestock Market - A centrally mounted mercury vapour lamp was installed to facilitate cleansing operations.

Knacker's Yard - No complaints were received about its management from the public health aspect.

Refuse Removal - Although working to full capacity the refuse distructor dealt with all refuse satisfactorily. The weekly weight of refuse is approximately 18 tons of house refuse and 6 tons of trade refuse.

Sports and Recreation - No change.

Housing Improvement Grants - Fifteen building grants were made.

Shops - In one case only, involving the construction of an intervening ventilated space between a sanitary convenience and a food store was it necessary to take action under the Food Hygiene Regulations and Food Byelaws in connection with the cleanliness of equipment and persons, the handling, preparation and display of food. Some butter and evaporated milk were condemned and disposed of in the Council's refuse incinerator.

Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc) Regulations, 1959 - No action necessary.

Meat Inspection - No slaughterhouses, Meat inspection at butchers' shops carried out. Refrigerators properly maintained and used.

Rodent Control - Service unchanged. No statutory notices were required.

Transport - The Knighton U.D.C. furnished the U.D.C.'s Association with copies of (a) observations on proposed rail closures forwarded by Knighton U.D.C. for consideration by the Transport Users Consultative Committee, (b) Report of the T.U.C.C. in connection with written representations received and oral evidence given at a Public Enquiry held at Llandrindod Wells in October, 1962.

Industrial Development - The Government financed trousers factory in Knighton was opened.

Road Safety - The Knighton U.D.C. considered the County Surveyor's draft plan for the Control of Vehicle Waiting in Knighton and indicated their agreement with it except for their desire that 'No Waiting' in Victoria Road be imposed throughout its length on both sides. Later the Knighton U.D.C. finalised their proposals and agreed them with the County Surveyor.

The Council laid a second track in the 'Swan Close' Car Park.

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Street Lighting - A scheme comprising an additional 20 Group A lighting points was completed. Nelson Square lighting was improved.

Dangerous Walls and Buildings - Three dangerous walls and a dangerous building adjacent to the public highway and two other dangerous buildings were rendered safe.

New Dwellings - Six private dwellings but no Council Houses were erected. The preparation of a scheme for 18 Council Houses, 1 Council House with Shop & Garage and 17 lock-up garages was completed and a tender was accepted.

Demolition and Closing Orders - One time-and-place notice was served, but the Council accepted the owner's undertaking to bring the cottage up to a satisfactory standard, and this he did.

Hospital - The hospital is administered by The Brecon and Radnor Hospital Management Committee of the Welsh Hospital Board.
The services available are:- (i) Geriatric - Chronic Sick - 30 beds. The day to day management is in the hands of a local G.P. with supervision by a consultant Geriatrician who visits about once a fortnight and is responsible for general policy and for liaision with the local Health Authorities. (ii) Maternity - 2 beds - These are open to any local G.P. The Midwifery is done by the Local Health Authority (Radnorshire County Council) Midwives. (iii) Physiotherapy - This service is temporarily in obeyance as the Physiotherapist resigned. (iv) X-Ray - In conjunction with the Group Radiologist a small department is in process of development. (v) Post Operative - The Hospital is beginning to take acute surgical cases who have been operated on at Hereford or Shrewsbury once they are fit to be transferred and if a bed is vacant.

It was stated by the Hospital Board that the future of Knighton Hospital was to be the subject of further reports from their Architect and Senior Administrative Medical Officer, and that Knighton U.D.C., who took a serious view of any effort to take away this service from the Urban area would be kept informed.

The maternity and labour wards are disinfected on request.

Common Lodging Houses - None.

Litter - In support of the anti-litter campaign the Council provided 24 litter bins in various parts of the town.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) B.C. DAVIES, B.M., B.Ch., D.R.C.O.G.

Medical Officer of Health.

7th. October, 1964.